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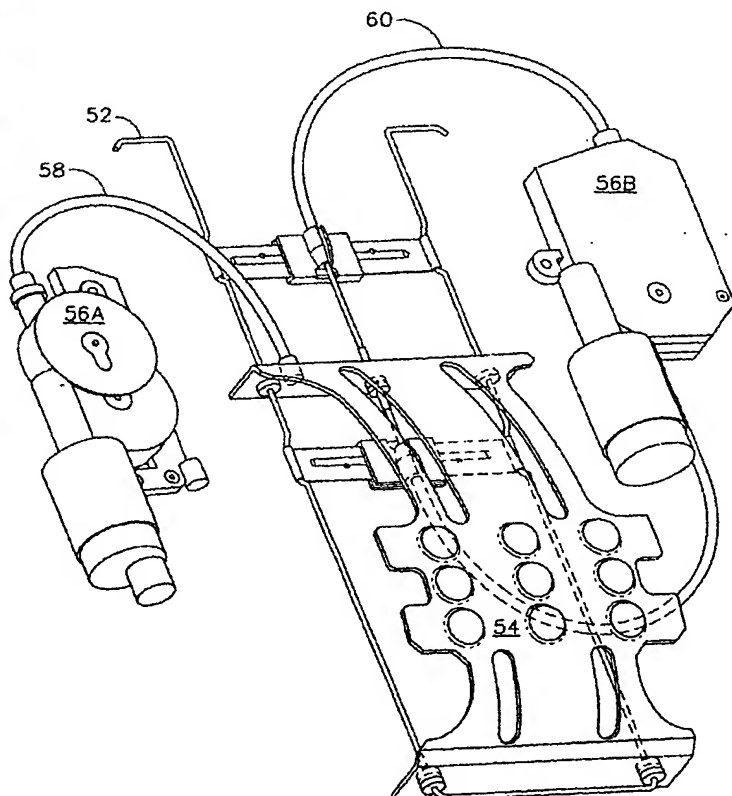
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **L & P PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY** [US/US]; L & P Property Management Company, No. 1 Leggett Road, Carthage, MO 64836 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **FRANK, Richard** [DE/DE]; Bahnhofstrasse 9, 89275 Elchingen (DE).
- (74) Agents: **KANG, Grant, D. et al.; HUSCH & EPPENBERGER, LLC**, 190 Carondelet Plaza, Suite 600, St. Louis, MO 63105 (US).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **MASSAGE APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR LUMBAR SUPPORT**



(57) **Abstract:** An ergonomic support mountable on various seat frames has a static portion (52) with anchors and mounts. The mounts adapt to fix said static portion to varying seat frames. An active portion (54) is operatively engaged with the anchors of the static portion such that the active portion can move in and out of a plane defined by the frame of the seat. The active portion has a pressure surface with a smooth base level (64). There are convexities (62) in the base level that impart a massage effect on a seat occupant. At least one actuator engages the active portion but only by an actuating linkage.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/34487

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B60N 2/66

US CL : 297/284.4

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 297/284.4, 284.5, 284.7, 284.8, 230.11; 601/134

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,567,011 A (SESSINI) 22 October 1996 (22.10.96), see fig. 5	1,2
Y	US 6,296,308 B (COSENTINO ET AL) 02 October 2001 (02.10.01), see figures 9-12	1,2
Y	US 4,421,110 A (DELISLE ET AL) 20 December 1983 (20.12.83), see figures 1-4	1
Y	US D413,985 S (MARTIN ET AL) 14 September 1999 (14.09.99), see figures 1-6	1
A	US 2,582,115 A (GOODEVE) 08 January 1952 (08.01.52), figures 1-3	1
A	US 5,797,861 A (PORT) 25 August 1998 (25.08.98), figure 2	1
A,P	US 6,589,143 B (TAYLOR) 08 July 2003 (08.07.03), figures 1,2	1
A	DE 3,525,960 A (STOCKHERT) 05 December 1985 (05.12.85), see figures 1,2	1



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

Peter R. Brown

Telephone No. 703-308-1113

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/34487

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☒ Claim Nos.: 3-12
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.